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Title: Need to provide additional grants to the Government of Maharashtra for completing the on-going irrigation projects in the State.−Laid.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I wish to bring this to the notice of the House that Bachachavat commission regarding sharing of water of Krishna River allocated 560 TMC of water from Krishna River to the State government of Maharashtra with the stipulation that the quantity will be utilized by the end of the year 2000. The State Government could not complete the project on time due to paucity of funds.

The central Government then initiated accelerated irrigation benefit programme (AIBP) under Central Loan Assistance (CLA). An amount of Rs. 229.49 crores was allocated to Maharashtra which works out to 4% of the total grants over a period of five years. In my State a larger area being drought prone, the financial assistance should have been at par with other states and in no case it should be less than that given to other States. Thereafter the Central Government introduced National River Grid Programme with an outlay of Rs. 5.60 lakh crores to be completed by the year 2016. In order to raise funds for this project the Government is going to raise loans and levy additional taxes. This step will again put the State of Maharashtra in a disadvantageous position.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that in the absence of any share of water of this project, the Government of Maharashtra may be compensated with additional grant of complete its on going projects. The quantum of grant may be Rs. 5000 crores annually as also relax the conditions laid down by the Bachachavat Commission.